

FAQs: Provisional Voting and Counting Write-In Votes

Q: The instructions on the back of the GAB-131 says: "If you have been issued a WI driver license that is currently revoked, suspended, or expired; or have been issued a WIDOT-issued ID that is expired, please provide the number and the last 4 digits of your Social Security number." Does a voter list both or just the last four of the SSN?

A: The instructions ask the voter to "please" provide the number with the last four digits of the SSN. We would like it for tracking purposes, but they don't have to provide it unless their DL or state-ID is current and valid.

Q: In reviewing the proof of photo ID, we have been trained that the election inspectors must inspect the photo and the name as reasonably similar to the voter standing at the poll book table. In printed material I see in the newspapers recently, there is mention of the photo ID with a signature. Are the election inspectors required to view the signature, too?

A: Election Inspectors are not required to compare signatures. They are not – nor are they expected to be - handwriting experts.

Q: Does a viable write-in candidate need two names to count?

A: No.

Q: I see that the provisional reporting form has the line for absentee/In person elector column. Would this only be for those voting absentee in the Clerk's office? Thanks for clarifying!

A: No, provisional voting is only available on Election Day at the polling place. That column is referring to regular absentee ballots and in person voting at the polls on Election Day.

Q: Where does the candidate file the Campaign Registration Statement?

A: With the appropriate filing officer. For state offices, the GAB; county offices, the county clerk; municipal offices, the municipal clerk.

Q: When an elector who voted a provisional ballot returns to the polls on Election Day and decides to spoil their ballot - what do we do with the provisional envelope?

A: It should be retained with your other election materials.

Q: Is the Election Day manual going to be updated and if so, when?

A: June 2015 is the current version and it won't be updated until after the April election.

Q: The voting machine would spit out the ballot because it is 'overvoted'. Do the inspectors remake that ballot or just put it in the write in bin to be determined later. Our equipment does not allow an over voted ballot to be overridden.

A: The voter should be asked if he or she wants to spoil the ballot and vote a new ballot. If the voter declines or has left the polling place, the election inspectors should place it in the auxiliary bin to be remade at the end of the night.

Q: In Example #1, is this race an over vote as far as programming election equipment? If it is NOT considered an over vote, then we should be able to have the machine override it, correct?

A: Yes, example #1 will show as an overvote on the equipment because there are three marks in a "vote for no more than two" contest.

Q: What is form number of this provisional voting information sheet?

A: GAB-123is

Q: You mentioned earlier that all names listed as write-ins must be counted - i.e. Aaron Rogers. But I thought we weren't supposed to count names unless they are "registered write-in"??

A: In certain circumstances, unregistered write-ins ARE counted. See page 8 of the materials.

Q: Example 5 does not make sense. You count the 2 registered write-ins so Gloria Steinem SHOULD be counted? 3 votes. write-in count for Izzy was not counted?

A: Ballot candidates may not be considered because there are enough write-in candidates, even if not all of them can be counted. So Gloria Steinem is NOT counted.

Q: In example 2, why would you count the Izzy when he wasn't a registered write-in? Why would they count?

A: When there are less ballot candidates than seats to fill, you count all write-ins.

Q: in example 1 & 2, wouldn't the machine reject the ballot as an overvote, which the elector could correct? If it was an absentee ballot, it would have to be remade with the rules laid out in the example, correct?

A: Yes, the machine will reject as an overvote in both examples, which if the elector is present, could be remedied by having the voter spoil the ballot and vote a new one. If it was an absentee ballot or the elector left the polling place before anyone noticed the error, it would be remade as explained in the materials.

Q: Can you clarify what can be faxed/emailed/phoned in versus what has to be in person?

A: Electors who need to provide their WI driver license or state-issued ID number can do it in person over the phone, by email or fax or by delivery. Electors who need to provide proof of residence can provide their documentation in person, by email or fax or by delivery. Electors who need to provide proof of identification must do so in person.

Q: Is there a link to the video that was shown?

A: <http://www.gab.wi.gov/publications/videos/tutorials>

Q: So can an unregistered write in win the election?

A: In certain circumstances, yes.

Q: What if they write Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck?

A: Proper names should be tallied.

Q: Is the GAB-123is available in Spanish?

A: Not at this time.

Q: I have an incumbent up for re-election that neither filed nomination papers nor filed non-candidacy papers. Can he register as a write-in?

A: Yes, he just needs to amend his GAB-1 by telling you he intends to run.

Q: How many documents get the PV#?

A: Six: poll list, ballot, GAB-104, GAB-123, GAB-123r, GAB123is.

Q: On the new ballot do we write anything on the duplicate ballot area like we do when we remake a ballot?

A: The election inspector is not remaking a ballot. The election inspector will be noting if it's the 2nd or perhaps 3rd ballot issued on the GAB-104 and the poll list.